



**DUSTY RHODES & BUGSY McGRAW  
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November 1980

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# **THE Wrestler**

**HIS FANS' FEAR:  
SUCCESS WILL SPOIL TOMMY RICH**



**Fred Blassie's Threat:  
"HOGAN IS FIRED  
IF HE DOESN'T  
DESTROY  
BACKLUND!"**





# OFFICIAL WRESTLING RATINGS

## WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION

Champion: BOB BACKLUND

- 1—LARRY ZBYSZKO
- 2—HULK HOGAN
- 3—KEN PATERA
- 4—PAT PATTERSON
- 5—IVAN PUTSKI
- 6—TONY ATLAS
- 7—PEDRO MORALES
- 8—TOR KAMATA
- 9—RICK MARTEL
- 10—ANGEL MARVILLA

## AMERICAN WRESTLING ASSOCIATION

Champion: VERNE GAGNE

- 1—NICK BOCKWINKEL
- 2—SUPER DESTROYER II
- 3—DINO BRAVO
- 4—MAD DOG VACHON
- 5—CRUSHER BLACKWELL
- 6—JOHN STUDD
- 7—CRUSHER
- 8—GREG GAGNE
- 9—JIM VALIANT
- 10—ADRIAN ADONIS

## MOST POPULAR

- 1—BRUNO SAMMARTINO
- 2—ANDRE THE GIANT
- 3—DUSTY RHODES
- 4—BOB BACKLUND
- 5—MR. WRESTLING II
- 6—RICK STEAMBOAT
- 7—BUGSY McGRAW
- 8—MIL MASCARAS
- 9—IVAN PUTSKI
- 10—AUSTIN IDOL



BOB BACKLUND



HARLEY RACE



VERNE GAGNE



DUSTY RHODES

## NATIONAL WRESTLING ALLIANCE

Champion: HARLEY RACE

- 1—DUSTY RHODES
- 2—RIC FLAIR
- 3—BARON VON RASCHKE
- 4—TED DiBIASE
- 5—KEN PATERA
- 6—HUSSEIN ARAB
- 7—MR. WRESTLING II
- 8—MIL MASCARAS
- 9—TOMMY RICH
- 10—KEVIN VON ERICH

## TAG TEAMS

- 1—JIMMY SNUKA & RAY STEVENS
- 2—THE SAMOANS
- 3—VERNE GAGNE & MAD DOG VACHON
- 4—JACK & JERRY BRISCO
- 5—THE ASSASSINS
- 6—BRYAN ST. JOHN & STANLEY LANE
- 7—MR. HITO & MR. SAKURADA
- 8—IVAN KOLOFF & NIKOLAI VOLKOFF
- 9—DAVID & KEVIN VON ERICH
- 10—BUZZ SAWYER & TONY BORNE

## MOST HATED

- 1—LARRY ZBYSZKO
- 2—TERRY FUNK
- 3—ERNIE LADD
- 4—BARON VON RASCHKE
- 5—HULK HOGAN
- 6—KEN PATERA
- 7—NICK BOCKWINKEL
- 8—MARK LEWIN
- 9—HARLEY RACE
- 10—GREG VALENTINE



# WHAT'S HAPPENING!

By BILL APTER



Verne Gagne is proud to once again be the holder of the AWA championship belt. Former champion Nick Bockwinkel, however, is claiming Gagne choked him into unconsciousness to gain the victory.

**V**ERNE GAGNE is the new American Wrestling Association champion!

"This is a very proud moment for me," Gagne said during a wild lockerroom celebration. "Now honor can be restored to the AWA championship."

Accusations by Bockwinkel's

manager, Bobby Heenan, have left a stale taste in Verne's mouth, however. "Gagne did not use the sleeper on Nick," Heenan contends. "It was an out and out chokehold that made Nick black out. He even spit blood when we got back to the dressing room. Justice must

be served. The AWA must strip that cheating Gagne of the title and return it to its rightful owners. We demand justice!"

Verne Gagne is not a man to deny a worthy challenger a title shot. Bockwinkel will certainly get an opportunity to regain the title.

One worthy challenger who probably won't get a title shot, however, is a man named Greg Gagne. But he doesn't seem to mind. "With the belt around Dad's waist," he said, "I feel like the title is also mine." But close friends of Greg know that's not true. To get a major title now, Greg must leave the AWA. Verne also holds half the AWA tag team championship with Mad Dog Vachon.

Gene Anderson, manager of Hussein Arab, "The Iron Sheik," is gloating now that his charger has two titles: the Mid-Atlantic singles title and the Canadian Heavyweight championship. Anderson also manages NWA tag team champions Jimmy Snuka and Ray Stevens. "This goes to show you that I am the greatest manager in the sport," Anderson brags.

*(Continued on page 51)*



# CORRESPONDENTS Reports

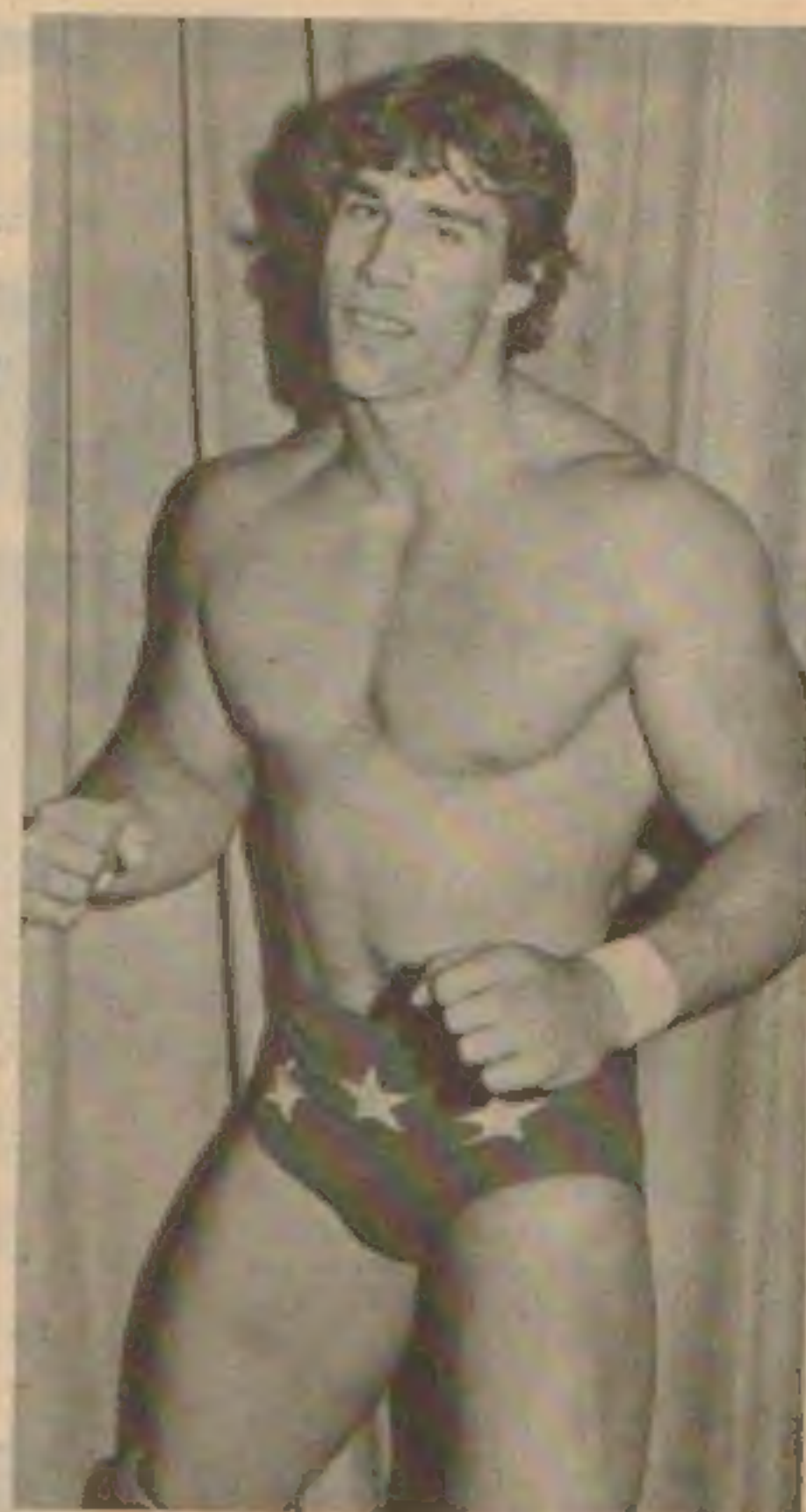
**D**ALLAS, TX—*Correspondent: Shawn Hodges*—The American Heavyweight tag team title was on the line as Mr. Hito and Mr. Sakurada defended their belts in a hard-fought match against Kerry Von Erich and El Halcon. The young challengers proved too much for the champions from the opening bell. Blending youth, skill, and determination, Von Erich and El Halcon, battered the champions. Even rulebreaking couldn't save their belts. When the action ended, Kerry Von Erich and El Halcon were the new champions!

In other matches, Kevin Von Erich downed Gino Hernandez... Killer Karl Kox defeated Ricky Jackson... Stan Stasiak stopped Gary Young... Tim Brooks toppled Jonathan Boyd.

If you would like your area of the country represented in these reports, while also being officially credited with your own by-line, send us reports of the matches you attend. You will have the thrill of seeing your name in an internationally known magazine while at the same time helping to improve the quality of wrestling in your area. So why not give it a try? You will be glad you did!

Send your reports to : Correspondent Editor, Box 48, Rockville Centre, N.Y. 11571.

**COLUMBIA, SC—Correspondent: Mitchell Smith**—The main event pitted Enforcer Luciano against Blackjack Mulligan in a Detroit Street Brawl. The match was even until Luciano threw Mulligan out of the ring and tried to hit him with a chair. Mulligan blocked the blow and slammed



Kerry Von Erich (above) teamed with El Halcon to wrest the American Heavyweight tag team belts from Mr. Hito and Mr. Sakurada.

Luciano's head into the timekeeper's table. Once both re-entered the ring, Luciano pulled a piece of steel out of his trunks and hit Mulligan. Blackjack could not answer the bell by the count of ten and Luciano gained a bloody victory.

In other matches, Masked Superstar retained his NWA TV title by beating off the challenge of Johnny Weaver... Dewey Robertson and Gene Louis stopped S.D. Jones and Don Kernodle... Ricky Gerrard beat Coco Samoa.

**TRENTON, NJ—Correspondent: Mark Cicon**—In a special WWF tag team title match, Afa and Sika, the "Wild" Samoans, successfully defended their championship against "Quick Draw" Rick McGraw and Johnny Rodz. The Samoans seized control of the bout while McGraw argued with the referee, enabling the Samoans to double-team and batter Rodz. By the time the ref

(Continued on page 58)



The Samoans were able to get away with double-teaming tactics in their WWF title defense against Rick McGraw and Johnny Rodz.



# YOU ASKED US

Here's the monthly feature which YOU get to write! It's your chance to have a top wrestler answer YOUR question! Only the best questions will be answered—so put on your thinking caps and come up with some good ones! Address your questions—and who you would like to have answer them—to: **YOU ASKED US, c/o THE WRESTLER, PO BOX 48, Rockville Centre, N.Y. 11571.** Questions will be answered only in this column and at our discretion!

The enormously powerful Hulk Hogan lifts Tito Santana for a bodyslam.



Q: Will Dusty Rhodes ever come to the Mid-Atlantic area?—  
Scott Smith, Mayodan, NC

A: "At this time, Scott, I don't have real plans to come up there. but I do know there's a lot of goons runnin' amuck and I want to stop them before they do real damage to that area," said Dusty. "And I want to thank all my friends for askin' for me. That makes me mighty happy."

\*\*\*

Q: I recently heard a rumor that Ken Patera is going to give up wrestling as a bad guy and become a good guy. I love Patera and really hope this isn't true—Gwyn Sarlouis, Johnstown, PA

A: "Seems I have an intelligent fan out there," replied Patera. "Glad to hear that. You're probably the only one with any brains in the area, Gwyn, except for me and the Wiz. No, I'd never wrestle like some fool Backlund or Rhodes. Ken Patera wrestles as Ken Patera, without any idiotic labels. I'm my own man with my own style so don't worry, nothing or no one will ever change that."

\*\*\*

Q: Does Hulk Hogan think he is stronger than Ken Patera?—  
Terrance Robinson, Richmond, VA

A: "What," Hogan shouted. "That a serious question? I'm so strong I can twist an elephant's head off its neck and throw it clear to Nigeria. That has to be the stupidest question I've ever heard. Now I admire Ken Patera, but when we're talking about strength, he ain't in the same league as me."

(Continued on page 47)



Every issue, this magazine praises the noteworthy and damns those who violate the spirit of wrestling's dignity. The praiseworthy are given a "thumbs up," the disgraceful are marked with "thumbs down." Here is this month's roll of honor and shame

# Thumbs Up



**THUMBS UP** to Austin Idol: This young man admitted he was wrong in his chosen way of wrestling style. That is the most difficult confession any man can make. Yet Idol displayed courage and determination, despite skepticism from peers and fans. He will accept the doubts until he's proven himself.

**THUMBS UP** to Harley Race: In the face of increasing challenges and doubts about his title security, NWA champ Race keeps rolling along, wrestling in his own inimical style. This man will never compromise nor give in to pressures. He will either reign or fall on his own merits.



**THUMBS DOWN** to Abdullah the Butcher: Nothing controls this maniacal invader from the Sudan. Abdullah wrestles without any conscience or morality, an encrazed animal bent on complete destruction of all that is sacred. Even immigration officials cannot deport him. Can he be stopped?

**THUMBS UP** to Pedro Morales: Even though this ambitious wrestler would love a chance to wrestle for the WWF crown, Morales put this goal in the background when he teamed with champion Bob Backlund to try and stop the Samoans.



**THUMBS DOWN** to Ray Stevens: Like a mutated parasite, Stevens feeds on other wrestlers' miseries. With Jimmy Snuka, he dethroned Rick Steamboat and Jay Youngblood to regain the NWA tag team title. Stevens doesn't care who he hurts on the way to the top. Or who he teams with.

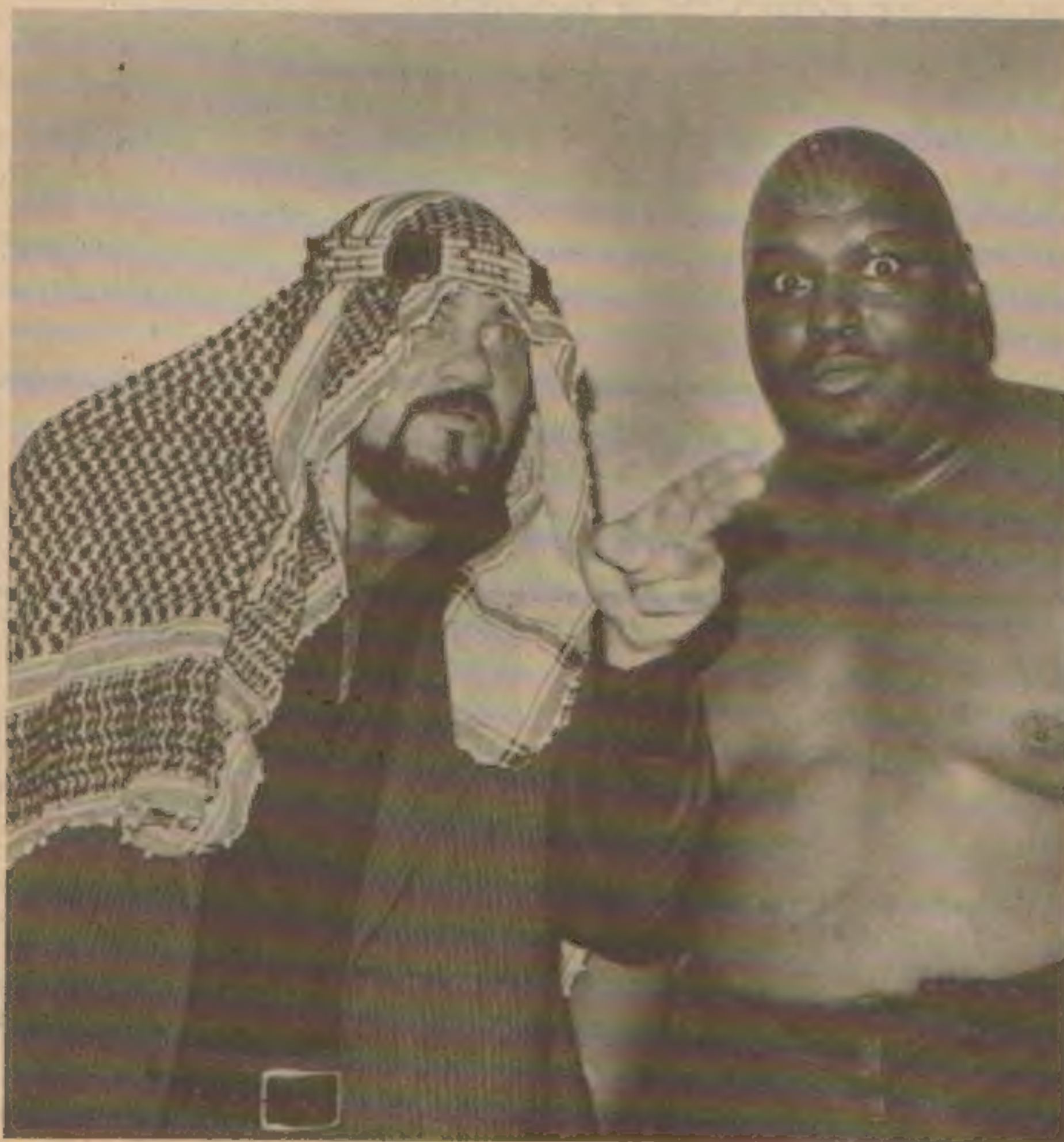
(Continued on page 50)

# Thumbs Down



# Q&A

Each month, **THE WRESTLER** will present a "Question and Answer" forum with an important figure in the wrestling world. It is your chance to meet wrestling's biggest stars as they answer the questions uppermost on the fans' minds



Great Mephisto would not allow Mark Lewin to attend his scheduled interview with **THE WRESTLER**. Mephisto does all the talking for both Lewin and Abdullah the Butcher (above).

**Q:** Why wouldn't Mark Lewin speak with us?

**A:** Ask him.

**Q:** He refused to answer our calls.

**A:** What do you want from me?

**Q:** But why wouldn't he?

**A:** Because he's too smart.

**Q:** Yet you're speaking to us.

**A:** I give all morons a break. I think it wise to allow you a glimpse of my genius, though you're not intelligent enough to comprehend all the immense complexities.

**Q:** A rumor persists . . .

**A:** I don't deal with rumors.

**Q:** All right then, people swear that you hypnotize Mark Lewin into obeying your every wish.

**A:** Lies.

**Q:** Then it isn't true?

**A:** Absolutely not. Mark wants me as his manager because he knows I am brilliant and together we will conquer all of Georgia wrestling and destroy the likes of Rich, II, and Kevin Sullivan.

**Q:** Lewin acts peculiar.

**A:** So do you.

**Q:** I'm not at issue here.

**A:** Explain what you mean by peculiar. Is it because Lewin slaughters opponents, leaving them bloody and motionless? Is it because Lewin is the most ferocious





**I**N RECENT MONTHS, his name has become synonymous with cunning sadism. With wrestlers like Mark Lewin and Abdullah the Butcher, he has two of the most fiendish grappers in wrestling history. When we began this interview, Lewin was supposed to be the subject. However, manager Great Mephisto refused to permit Lewin to speak, despite Lewin's initial agreement. Such peculiarities nourish suspicions of Mephisto's diabolical powers over his wrestlers.

wrestler to lace up boots, that he and Abdullah possess the single-minded intensity to wipe out all opposition?

**Q:** Lewin's behavior borders on the maniacal.

**A:** According to your definition.

**Q:** He has no respect for laws.

**A:** Your laws, not ours. As superior human beings we are not bound by the piddling laws created by inferior creatures like yourself and Mr. Wrestling II. We can do whatever we want because we are the

true gods of wrestling.

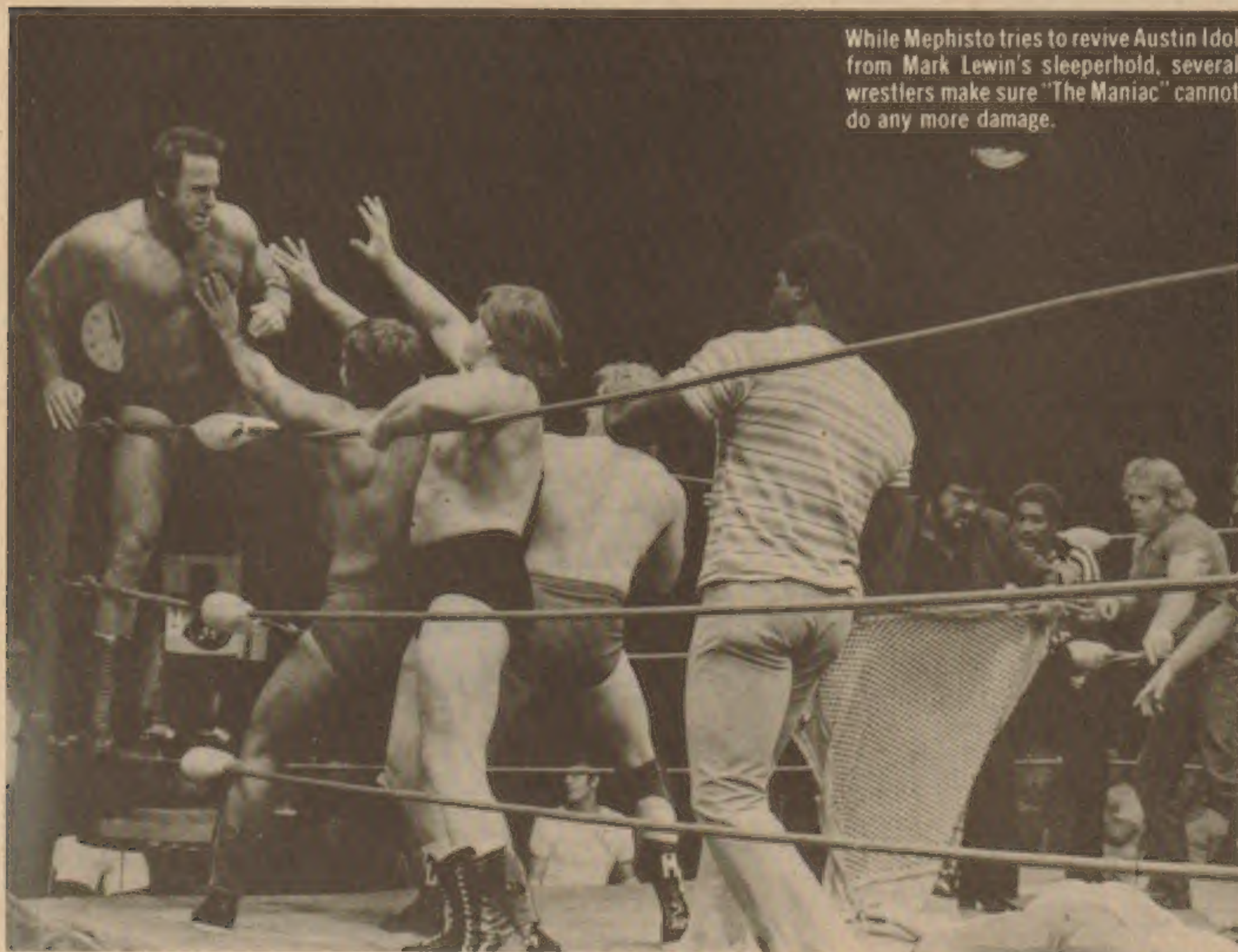
**Q:** What do you want to do?

**A:** Own wrestling, destroy the fools who block our path.

**Q:** If you're so powerful, why can't you destroy the fools?

**A:** I will try and overlook the hostility in that question.

*(Continued on page 56)*



While Mephisto tries to revive Austin Idol from Mark Lewin's sleeperhold, several wrestlers make sure "The Maniac" cannot do any more damage.



# LOU ALBANO

Each month in THE WRESTLER, Captain Lou Albano will offer his unusual views on professional wrestling. Some may agree with him. Others may say it's the ravings of a berserk maniac. Still, no one can accuse the Captain of not being interesting. We feel this column is important, because no matter how hated a man may be, his opinions deserve to be heard

## Talks Wrestling



"Maybe I should have minded my own business, but when I heard those idiots praising that bum Bruno Sammartino I had to set them straight. Look what the Captain is doing to the great Bruno in this photo."

**I** STILL CAN'T believe it. The swine, the lousy, smelly swine. I threatened them with a million dollar law suit if they didn't live up to the contract and allow me this final column. Yup, this is the last column I'll ever write for this sleazy, disgusting magazine.

I wanted to get out the truth before they started shooting off their mouths. Now this is exactly what happened, swear on my head.

The fools were having some kind of stupid editorial meeting. I was in the office, about six desks away, typing away at

Matt Brock's desk. Ol' Matt was out of town or lying in some alley, with him you never know. I overhear their conversation. I wasn't eavesdropping but the Captain's hearing can detect pizza bubbling two miles away. I am a superior being in every respect.

Managing Editor Bill Apter started singing the praises of some nit-wit prelim bum named Sammartino. I thought they were objective journalists, not shoe-lickers. But the way they lied and said good things about Sammartino got me furious, so I walked over to set the record straight.

Before you know what happened, Stu Saks stands up and shouts I should sit down, this is none of my business. Punk. I take that from no one, certainly not some over-sized chunk of blue cheese. I told Saks it's my right to tell the truth, the Captain tells just the truth and nothing but the truth. Can't lie. Impossible for me to lie, I've never lied in my life,



never once, even in school when all the future Backlunds lied, I never did.

So I told Saks off and sent him cringing into his seat. I told them all that truth should be the criteria and they better stop taking money from Skoaland to print lies about his friends. Well, lah-dee-dah, did that start trouble. Seems I hit a nerve. Peter King, editor-in-chief of this sleazeburger rag, shouted his writers are men of the highest integrity. I called him a bald-faced liar and said I can get cancelled checks payable to Bill Apter and Gary Morgenstein, plus a photocopy of a letter from Skoaland, begging for stories to be written saying nice things. I got the proof, the Captain never talks without proof, I've got the ammo, I've got the goods on these creeps, they'll pay, imagine, just imagine, Morgy, that four-eyed creep, tells me to shut up or leave, I asked who'll make me, he said Steve Farhood, a man whose face belongs on a Lebanese postage stamp, I told them I'd take them on one at a time, all at a time, I fear no man nor beast and the clowns who work on this magazine qualify in both categories if not a third, from another planet, I called them names and said the Captain never compromises and they better watch their steps and start printing truth like how I am the greatest man whoever lived and the Samoans are the greatest tag team in history, better than Antony and Cleopatra, I told them I'd start a rival magazine devoted to the truth and they threw me out.

So fans, this is farewell. Remember, they cannot stifle the truth. The Captain will be back! □



"Arnold Skoaland is a man with a lot of expenses. How could I expect to get anywhere with the referees when they are on Skoaland's payroll (above). Likewise, how could this magazine print the truth about that spaghetti-slurping Sammartino when Skoaland (in a losing effort below) is paying off the editors?"





# **SUPER DESTROYER II vs. SUPER DESTROYER III = SUPER DESTRUCTION**

Once upon a time, Super Destroyer II and Super Destroyer III were best of friends, tag team partners, and comrades in arms. But an ill-fated surprise party breded mistrust and hate until the AWA was no longer big enough for both. One had to go





**SUPER DESTROYER MARK**  
SD III will never forget that party.

"He was my good buddy and I wanted to do somethin' nice for him," recalled Super Destroyer III.

have a birthday, huh? Only once and I wanted to do somethin' good for him. Hell, when it comes to friendship, I have no boundaries, and Super Destroyer II was a good, good friend."

SD III withdrew money and rented a restaurant.

"This is where we go to all the time, went to, sorry, well, it's a classy joint, good steaks and salad, fine brew, pretty waitresses." SD III

winked. "I spoke to the owner and told him I wanted everything absolutely perfect. No problem."

SD III ordered the best filets and largest lobster, freshest vegetables, imported beer, and good 12-year-old Scotch. He hired a three-piece jazz group to entertain and a beautiful blonde singer to wail away melodious ballads.

"We'd heard this group one night at a downtown jazz joint," said SD III. "SD II loved the group and I knew they'd be perfect for the occasion."

Next came preparing a guest list.

"Wasn't that hard, specially when everyone heard what they

was invited to. SD III used to have a lot of friends in this area. Heenan, Bockwinkel, Jesse Ventura, and Adrian Adonis all cancelled commitments to come. Hell, we had some other guys outside of wrestling, friends of ours. I made damn sure each guest would feel comfortable with everyone else. Like I said, this hadda be perfect."

To maintain the element of secrecy, crucial to the surprise birthday party, remained the last obstacle.

"You don't know SD III, he's a suspicious sort," said SD II.

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A young blond wrestler trotted down the aisle, hurrying from nerves and awkwardness. This was

keeping the perspiration from dripping into his clear, alert eyes.

As he neared the ring, a chant exploded from the crowd:

"Tommy, Tommy," fans shouted.

Already, young Rich was a crowd

favorite. He beamed and waved to the fans. After the match, Rich

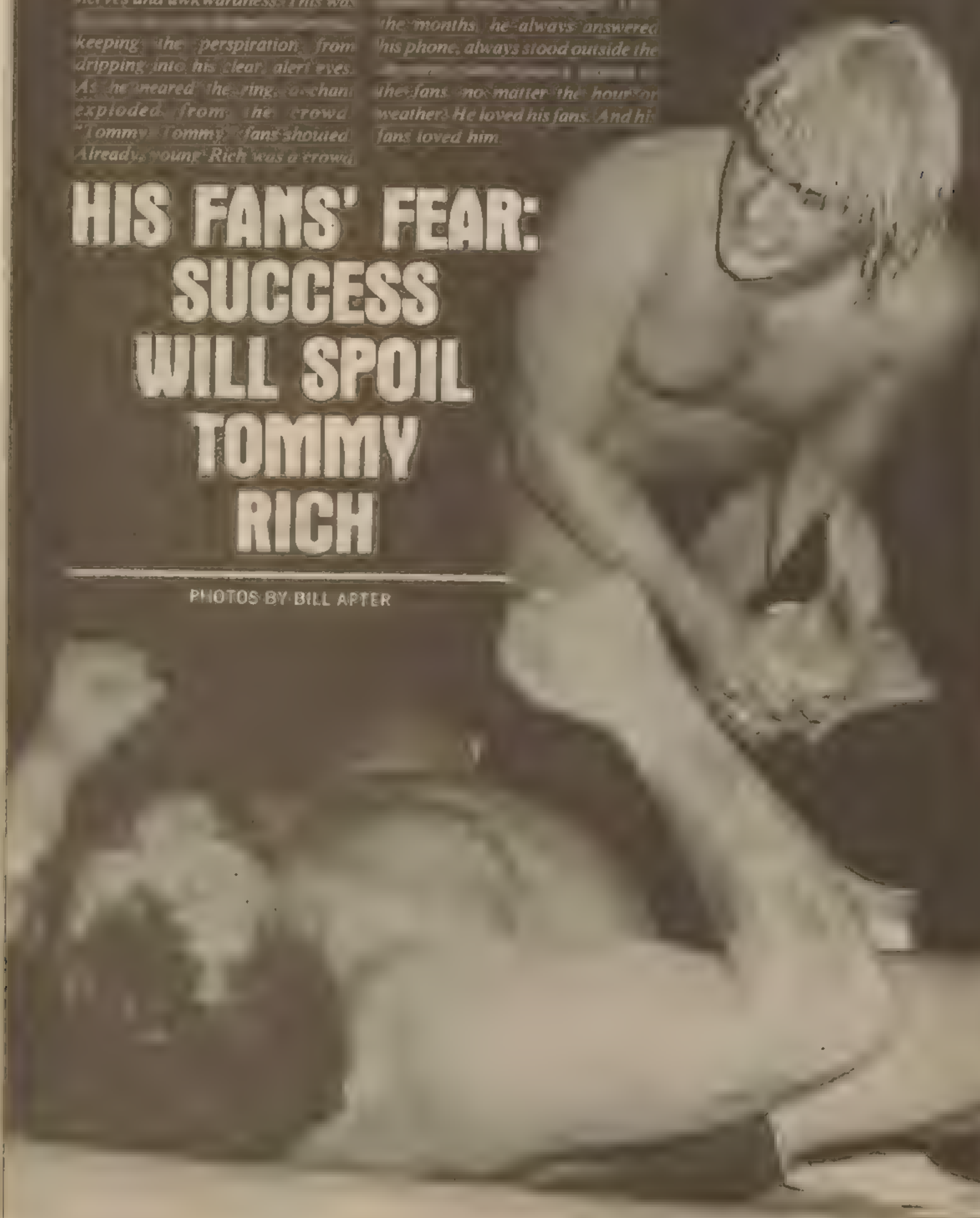
the months, he always answered his phone, always stood outside the

the fans, no matter the hour or weather. He loved his fans. And his

fans loved him.

# HIS FANS' FEAR: SUCCESS WILL SPOIL TOMMY RICH

PHOTOS BY BILL APTER





**A**T HEART, TOMMY RICH is kind, decent and relatively unassuming. But success demands a certain price, often reflected in the altering of a personality. Rich isn't immune to such changes. He has been substantially changed by his success and the adoration. The question becomes has it permanently spoiled him?

"I was outside the arena last Friday night," recalled Art Detore, of Macon, Georgia. "And I was waitin' for Tommy to come up, heck, I remember Tommy's first match ever. I remember how I waited and got his autograph 'cause I knew it'd be worth a lot someday.

"So there's a bunch of us waitin' out there, dunno, maybe 20 or so, somethin' like that, jus' hard to tell sometimes. Gettin' off the subject, huh? So Rich comes out and everyone starts hootin' and hollerin' and wavin' their pencils and papers. Rich smiles, you know, that kinda shy smile he got, and signs a couple and says he's gotta go. Wasn't nasty, mind you, not in the least. But he wouldn't sign autographs. Gotta wonder why."

Another fan recollects a similar incident

"I got Tommy's pictures all up my room, gosh, my momma wants to tear my rear if I don't keep some

order. Keep a scrapbook, too," said Tammy Winters, Atlanta. "And I'd do anythin' for Tommy. Every time I go to the matches, I get his autograph. Must have 'bout 60 of 'em.

"But last time, Tommy only signed one or two before leavin'. Made me mighty hurt, you know what I mean? Mighty hurt."

Actions beyond the squared circle do not fully convey the extent of Rich's change. A new ferocity, perhaps unleashed by the broken leg inflicted by Harley Race, alarms some of Tommy's friends.

"Tommy's toughened up a lot since he first broke in," said a



Tommy Rich stomps the head of Harley Race as the NWA champion lay across the ring apron (above left). Race grabs a handful of Tommy's hair and slams his head back to the canvas (above right).

With each success comes a price. Few greats maintain their sense of perspective and continue to view their accomplishments as simple specks upon the world plane. Big heads and overblown egos are common and somewhat understandable. Has the same happened to Tommy Rich?





Race takes aim and drives his knee into Rich's chest (above). Race has Rich tied in a small package, but Tommy is able to get part of his foot through the ropes (top right)

fellow scientific wrestler who requested anonymity. "I don't say that's bad. You gotta develop a hide, both in and out, to survive in this sport

"But I worry Tommy doesn't

know how to check his rage, that it's gonna ruin his game. You gotta channel your anger and not let it control you. I don't think Tommy understands that yet. He hates Harley Race so much he can't



handle it. I've been watching Rich and he isn't as solidly in control of his strategies like he once was. In one way, he's better because he's more aggressive, but on the other hand, he risks blowing his cool by not harnessing all those hostile and violent emotions."

Rich appears both angry and confused by reaction to his recent matches

"Heck, what do people want from me? I've never refused a fan or been nasty. Darn, I owe everything to my fans, everything. They come before anything in my life. I'd never turn my back on my fans. Never

"But I've been so busy lately. My matches take me all over the area and sometimes I have to rush from the arena to catch a plane. It isn't that I don't want to sign autographs and talk, it's just I don't have time.

"As for my aggressiveness, heck, I want Race to pay for what he did, and I'm determined to blast his face across the state. I know what I'm doing. I'm able to handle my hate. But Race won't. He'll lie in a million little pieces "

Perhaps Rich doesn't realize the fundamental changes. Perhaps he can never return to the innocence of a rookie. No one can ask that of him. □



# Ted DiBiase:



**“KILLER KAHN  
WANTS ME  
DEAD!”**

Often maniac rulebreakers are lumped in some contemptible category and dismissed as dangerous vermin intent on ruining the world. But is this so fair? Perhaps the case of Killer Kahn illustrates the unfair attitude many wrestling people have to foreign rulebreakers

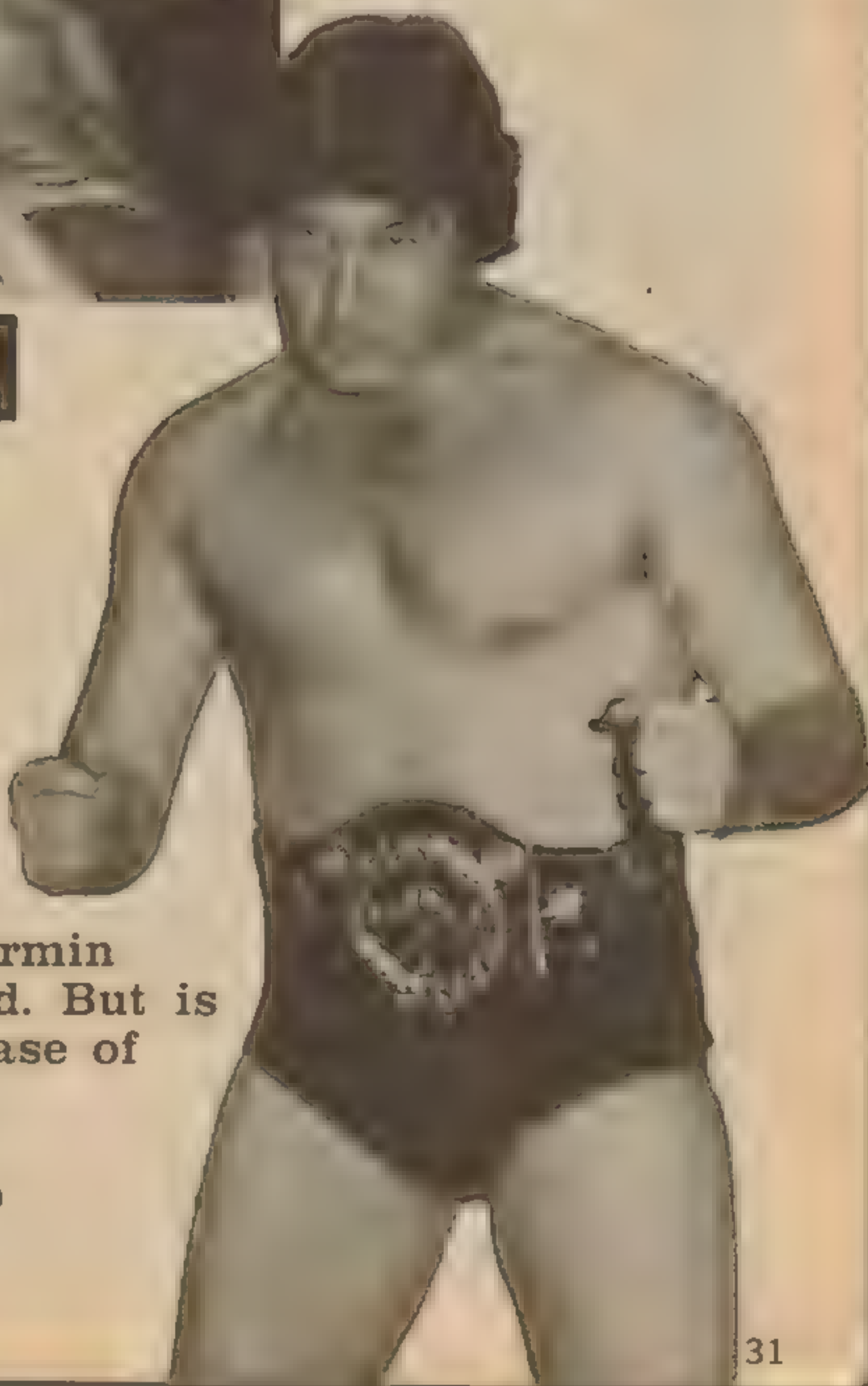
**“N**O ONE UNDERSTAND me here, no one like me, must hurt everyone, they do not understand me, why?” wailed Killer Kahn.

Since his invasion of America, Kahn's reputation has been for sadism, cruelty, and general meanness. He doesn't stop when his foes scream in pain nor does he display the basic elements of charity.

He is an Asian Madman. Or is he?

“I not bad man, others bad man,” insisted Kahn. “I hurt people because they hurt me and say mean things to me, say I am mean and stupid. Not nice to say that

“No one bother to understand









...a figure-four armlock. DiBiase cannot understand why Kahn tries to cripple his opponents

me and what I say. Only say I crazy. Not so. Not crazy. Back home, considered smart, big man, everyone like me, say I nice. Why no one here say I nice?"

Looked at objectively, Kahn's conduct contradicts claims of sanity. Throughout his career, Killer Kahn has attempted to maim, cripple, and mutilate opponents, referees, and even fans. No member of the wrestling community is immune from Kahn's mad excesses.

Ted DiBiase qualifies as an expert on Kahn's ferocity.

"What's with that guy?" asked DiBiase after a recent bout. "I mean, he's totally off the wall. He tried to do things to me that no man ever did. After everything he did to me, I gotta think Killer Kahn wants me dead."

Very serious charges. It's one thing for a man to want victory. Another for a man to wish to cripple a foe. But to enact a personal death sentence runs counter to the very principles of wrestling.

"I no want to hurt. But must protect myself. Must show cannot do things to me and hurt me," said Kahn. "That why I fight back. Only fighting back."

People close to Kahn echo his wounded charges.

"Kahn is really a nice guy," said a friend. "I don't think he wants to hurt people. But he feels bad about the treatment he's had in this country. He thinks fans won't respect him because he's from Asia and other wrestlers don't socialize with him. I think he has a good point and someone should listen to him."

Perhaps Kahn's unrelenting use of the Asiatic nervehold fuels suspicions of mental instability.

"He likes to see his

opponents twitch," said DiBiase. "He won't let up. Hell, if the guy has a problem let him be a man and tell someone instead of acting like a crazy person. I'm a reasonable man. I'd listen and see what I could do to help him out."

"But if some joker wants to kill me, hell, he better watch his step 'cause I'll get him before he gets me."

An eminent local psychologist, Dr. Stuart Blachunas, offered an absorbing professional opinion into Killer Kahn's strange psyche.

"A man like Kahn feels great insecurity and paranoia, some of it justified. He came to this country with a reputation as a madman. When someone receives a label, they sometimes end up fulfilling that label and all the attendant expectations flowing from that label."

"Had Kahn not arrived with such fanfare, he may have used his Asian nervehold for good, like, uh, helping disabled people, maybe he could have worked with a chiropractor, I'm not too certain."

"Whatever, he could have been different. And he has been attacked, or at least he perceives himself as under attack, the same thing to a man like this."

"From what I can see, and I haven't examined him thoroughly—he wouldn't consent to a psychological test, last doctor who attempted one ended up in the hospital—he feels the only way to change people's mind is to destroy them."

"At heart, I think Killer Kahn has some sensitivity. Unfortunately, I don't think circumstances will ever allow that side of him to emerge. That's too bad."

Killer Kahn, misunderstood maniac. □



# Fred Blassie's Threat:



**“HULK HOGAN WHEN HULK HOGAN first entered the WWF, plaudits flowed like wine at a wedding. He's the best, the greatest, I've seen 'em all, the Captain knows what he's talkin' about and this kid's got a lot, size, strength, smarts, I wish him and my good buddy Fred Blassie all the best,” said Lou Albano**

**IS FIRED**

**IF HE**

**DOESN'T**

**DESTROY BACKLUM**

**“I must say Hulk Hogan is a very impressive wrestler, nearly as strong as me,” said Ken Patera**

**“Hogan? Yeah, he's pretty**





Hulk Hogan taunts his fallen foe, Gorilla Monsoon, after their match at Madison Square Garden. Hogan feels he deserves a match with WWF champion Bob Backlund.

Inch by bloody inch, Hulk Hogan powered his way to the top of the WWF ratings. Yet a shot at Bob Backlund's championship eludes Hogan, frustrating him and infuriating his manager, Fred Blassie. Colorful Blassie isn't one to lightly accept second-best. He won't, even if it means firing his favorite wrestler.

good," said Larry Zbyszko. "He's got a lot of talent."

And most important of all.

"My man Hogan will wipe the floor with these pencil-necked geeks, hah-hah, he'll take apart Backlund and throw him to the winds, no one can stop us, hah-hah, we're indestructible," said manager Fred Blassie.

That was several months ago. In the interim, Hogan fought his way to the top of the WWF ratings. Tito Santana and Dominic DeNucci were two of

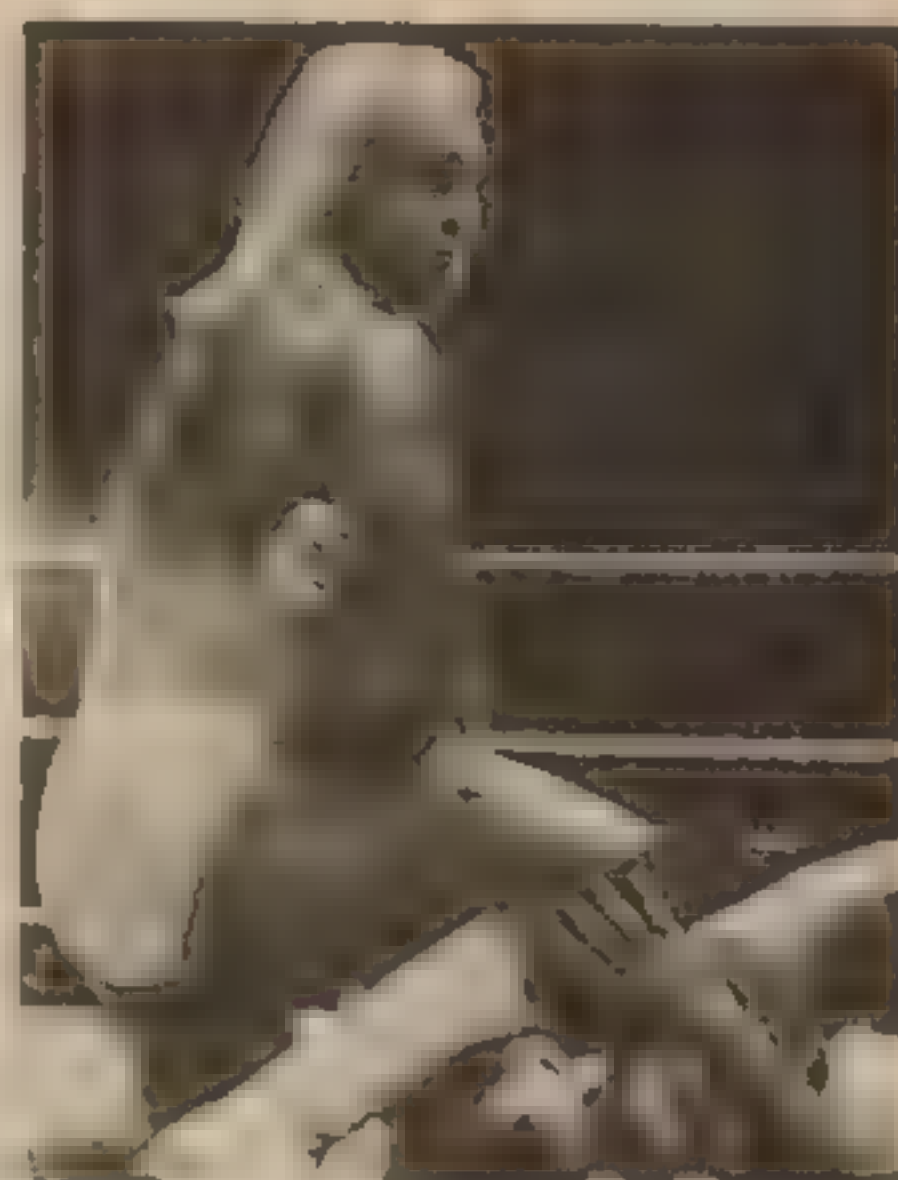
Hogan's most notable victims. Yet the big one, the prize all covet and all aspire toward, the WWF championship, remains beyond Hogan's grasp.

"Backlund's afraid of me, that's all, just afraid of me and scared to wrestle me," accused Hogan.

"I'll wrestle him. We simply haven't come to terms on money and when," said Backlund. "Since when have I refused to wrestle a top contender, though Hogan's gotta be a middle-level wrestler, not much more."

Truth lies compressed between Backlund's record and

(Continued on page 62)



Hogan appears to be bored as he locks up Dominic DeNucci.

IND! " "



# IS RAY STEVENS



## JIMMY SNUKA'S BODYGUARD?

**R**ICK STEAMBOAT UNDERSTANDS Jimmy Snuka better than just about anybody. When you've viewed a man both as a close friend and a bitter enemy, you come to know the man from the inside out.

Steamboat feels he knows even more about Jimmy Snuka than Jimmy Snuka does. "The man has deep psychological problems," said Steamboat to a gathering of reporters. "It has been just about a year since he has changed his wrestling style, and did you know that in that time he has never given any explanation for it. Not to the fans, not to the press, and not to his old friends."

"I've seen guys change their styles in this sport a lot. But usually there is something behind that change. Some reason. Snuka, though, is mindlessly led by his manager Gene Anderson."

Steamboat let his listeners jot down the last sentence in their notebooks and continued to state his analysis. "At first, I honestly thought that there was a good chance that Jimmy would turn rulebreaker for about a month, see the errors of his ways, and then come back to his friends. After a month, I thought it would take two months, and then three. But sadly, it never happened. Jimmy's change goes a lot deeper than whether or not he follows the rules of the sport."

A knock on the door interrupted Steamboat's talk. "Ah, doctor, welcome," Steamboat greeted an elderly bearded man, who walked with a cane. "Gentlemen," Steamboat said, "I'd like to introduce Dr. Heyward Mitchell. I have worked very closely with Dr. Mitchell for three months now. Together we have been studying Jimmy Snuka, the wrestler and the man, and we have come up with some very



When Ray Stevens and Jimmy Snuka defended their NWA tag team championship against former champions Rick Steamboat and Jay Youngblood, Stevens did most of the dirty work—literally.

interesting conclusions. I give you Dr. Mitchell."

"As you know gentlemen," Dr. Mitchell cleared his throat and continued. "Pardon me. As you know, it is impossible to make an accurate psychiatric study without direct access to the subject. Unfortunately, in this case that would obviously be impossible."

Mitchell smiled as though he told a psychology trade joke. After receiving no response from his listeners, the doctor continued. "What I have focused on in my study is the mental deterioration of the subject. Prior to his adjustment, he was a very outgoing and likable man. And the fascinating aspect of this case is that he retained those traits up until the very moment of his change. It was the most sudden personality reversal I have ever experienced. And I've had a lot of experience."

Mitchell stroked his gray



**Accusing a man of being a bodyguard burdens both. Why would Ray Stevens act as Jimmy Snuka's bodyguard? What's the payoff? And is Jimmy Snuka actually fearful of fighting his own battles, a charge contrary to Snuka's past ring behavior?**

beard, smiled, and once again received no response. "Since that change, however, there have been fascinating reciprocal alterations in the personality of the subject. I turn the floor back to Mr. Steamboat."

"Thank you doctor," said Steamboat rising. "Gentlemen. It might appear to many people that Jimmy Snuka has furthered

*(Continued on page 64)*

Stevens is forced to combat both Youngblood and Steamboat. How long can Ray continue to assume the burden of the title for both he and Snuka?





# DUSTY RHODES & BUGSY MCGRAW WIN



## THE U.S. CHALLENGE CUP TROPHY!

A dream ticket, Dusty Rhodes and Buggy McGraw. Together they participated in the prestigious United States Challenge Cup tag team tournament, determined to disprove detractors who said they couldn't work together

**D**REAM TEAMS ARE often bandied about during bored moments at ringside or gatherings of fervent wrestling fans. Magazine offices are deluged with questions about the possibilities of such teams. Unfortunately, often considerations like scheduling, money, and clashing egos often obstruct creation of such tag teams.

But a dream team was formed. And as important, this team captured one of the greatest wrestling tournaments in the history of earth.

"When Dusty came up to me and asked to be my partner, I thought it was a dream come true," said Buggy McGraw. "I always admired Dusty's guts and mind. He don't take no garbage from anyone. He's my kind of wrestler."

"After all McGraw's gone through, he ain't changed," said Rhodes. "He believes in his principles and is willing to fight for them. You gotta respect that. I knew we'd be one helluva team."

Many outstanding wrestlers competed in the United States Challenge Cup tournament. But Rhodes and McGraw knew they'd win the \$50,000 first prize all along.

"Who could beat us?" asked McGraw. "Half-wits and nit-wits? Men without morals, men who would sell their people down the drain for a bag of gold?"

"You're puttin' two good American dudes in one ring and lettin' them go wild," said Rhodes. "We're unstoppable."

The photos on the next few pages are evidence Dusty Rhodes is right. □

PHOTOS BY JERRY PRATER





Above: Dory Funk Jr. tags off to brother Terry before being flipped out of the abdominal stretch by Mike Graham. Top right. Mr. Saito cannot put Manny Fernandez away with his sleeperhold. Right: A fallen Dusty Rhodes tries to defend himself against Ivan Koloff's brutal chain attack. Below right: Jerry Brisco holds Terry Funk in a headlock. Below: Bobo Brazil sets up one of the Assassins for a devastating coco butt. After two rounds of action, four teams remained: Mr. Saito and Dick Slater, Dusty Rhodes and Bugsy McGraw, Bubba Douglas and Bobo Brazil, and the Funks







Above: Saito's sleeper once again fails as McGraw received help from Rhodes before falling under. Right: Dory and Terry Funk discuss strategy before the final match. Below: Rhodes stops Terry's assault on McGraw in the finals.





# INTRODUCING



## TERRY TAYLOR

Still another outstanding example of American youth has entered professional wrestling. Terry Taylor has a lot going for him: speed, strength, and determination. Additionally, Taylor has a solid set of morals honed on respect for the old-fashioned values in our society.

How can he lose?

By Maggie Adkins

**L**IKE MANY WRESTLING fans, Terry Taylor dreamt of the moment he could lace up boots and climb within the ropes to engage in a professional wrestling match.

"I guess every kid wants to grow

up and become a top athlete in his favorite sport," said the 25-year-old from Vero Beach, Florida.

"I liked other sports and played football, basketball, and a little baseball, but wrestling was always number one," Taylor said.

"Nothing could compare with that feeling of pinning your opponent."

"Still, at some point you worry that it's just a kid's dream. I was real lucky to meet a man who gave me my first break in pro wrestling," said the 6-1, 220-pounder.



Terry Taylor brings Baron Von Raschke to the mat with an armdrag.



Wrestling great Eddie Graham saw Taylor work out and was immediately impressed by the young man's strength and agility.

"First time I saw the kid, I knew he'd be a star," said Graham. "All he needed was a little training and he was set."

Day after day, Taylor trained under Graham's tutelage.

"He never let up, which was good," said Taylor. "Man, sometimes I thought I'd fall down and die. Every muscle in my body ached, muscles I didn't think I had. But it was worth it. I owe

everything to Eddie."

Since his pro debut in Florida nearly a year ago, Taylor has wrestled throughout the South.

"I've been in Florida, Georgia, Tennessee, Kentucky, and Virginia," Taylor said. "And everywhere I've wrestled, the fans have



been super. I really like them a lot. Many times their support helped me out of some really sticky situations."

Taylor, who works out at least an hour a day, still gets excited when discussing his first major title.

"Oh, wow, when I won the Southeastern Heavyweight title I thought I'd faint. What a feeling! Just a surge of energy, just feeling good, really hard to explain. First thing I did that night was call Eddie and tell him the good news. You know, I don't know which of us was more thrilled."

Taylor welcomes the ruthless rulebreakers as opponents. "The harder the opponent, the better," said Taylor. "I like challenges. Isn't that what wrestling's all about?"

Mature and poised, Taylor accepts the violent nature of wrestling.



Taylor must use all his strength to maintain his headlock on the slippery Von Raschke (left) Taylor sends The Baron reeling with a flying dropkick (above) Terry has the agility, strength, and brains to become a fine wrestler

"Sure there's a lot of violence," he said, "But everyone who gets into wrestling knows that. It's part of the sport, built into it. I think people enjoy the action so long as it doesn't become a bloodbath with guys trying to injure their foes. That's different and should

be stopped."

Taylor, recently chosen Georgia Rookie of the Year, has many interests outside of wrestling

"I love tennis, water skiing, swimming, playing the drums. Yeah, I love to play my drums," said Taylor. "And I love to sing

and read a good book. Oh, and my favorite foods are chicken and steak."

Taylor's ultimate wrestling goals are quite simple.

"To be the very best I can," said Taylor. "Hopefully that means winning a world championship." □



# TONY ATLAS

PHOTOS BY  
BILL APTER

Young Tony Atlas shoulders a fearsome burden. He views himself as a guardian of rapidly decaying wrestling principles. Sometimes he feels he's all alone. But Atlas struggles under this heavy burden. It has nothing to do with his immense skills or ambitions, but with the task he has undertaken

## CARRYING THE WORLD ON HIS SHOULDERS

*"I'm wrestlin' in this huge stadium 'cept I can't see any of the fans, can only hear them and they're all shoutin' my name, over and over, never stop, keep shoutin' my name. A big TV light shines down on me and almost blinds me, can't hardly see but I keep goin' forward 'cause I see my opponent. Never know who he is. But he's huge, bigger than Andre, or bigger than anyone I ever saw. I start movin' toward him but I can hardly move my legs, they feel like pieces of metal or steel or somethin'. I'm kinda sloshing toward him but he can move quick and the fans keep shoutin' my*

*name and this big dude grabs me and I try to knock him down but he grabs me in a bearhug and the fans keep shoutin' and he squeezes and I can hardly breathe and I wake up."*

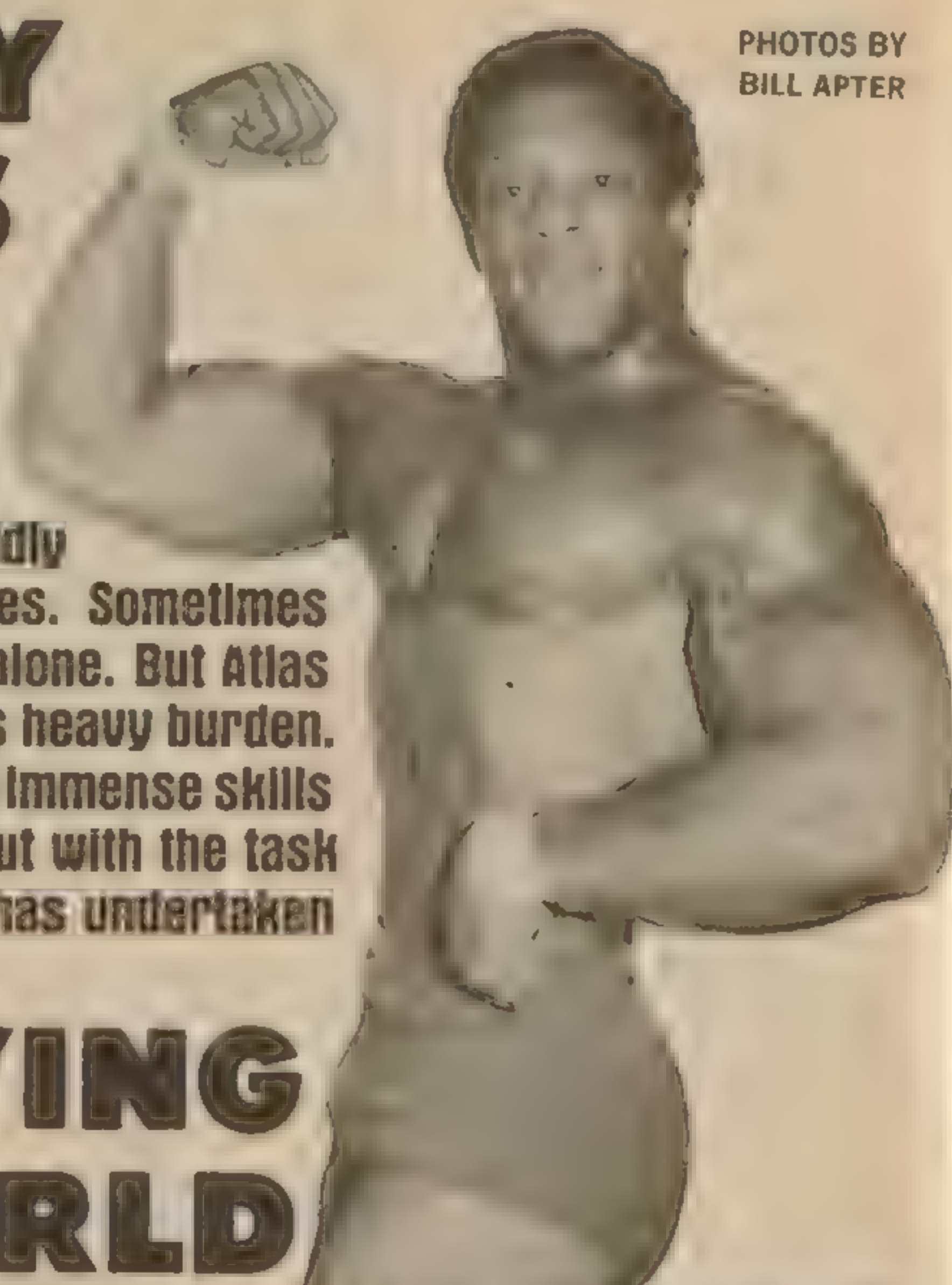
TONY ATLAS SIGHS and squeezes the cardboard container of orange juice. He glances around the deserted locker room, relaxes slightly as if the desolation is a comfort, a respite from his ordeals.

Night after night, Tony Atlas subjects himself to the harshest scrutiny possible in professional wrestling: televised matches. Unlike bouts in smaller arenas

before several thousand fans, Atlas' TV fights are viewed by millions upon millions of rabid wrestling fans. He cannot afford a mistake. Not even one.

"Sometimes I get so worked up before the match I can hardly breathe, know?" said Atlas. "I get all powered up and well, not nervous, understand, not like I'm nervous or anythin' like that, but, well, the pressure and all."

Atlas doesn't confine his TV bouts to the top of the Georgia rulebreaking pile. Instead, Atlas challenges any and all comers, from the rawest rookies to the most grizzled vets.





"Someone gotta do it," said Atlas. "Might as well be me."

That statement embodies Atlas' wrestling philosophy. He will not distinguish between easy and hard bouts. He feels that it is his moral duty to fight back the forces of evil, no matter where they are.

"It gets kinda lonely, know?" said Atlas. "Oh, I got my friends like Kevin Sullivan, and Tommy Rich, and II, people I can confide in and talk to. But, hell, you can't talk to no one 'cept yourself once you step through those ropes."

In both the WWF and Georgia, Atlas tackles the tough ones, the guy others fear.

"I ain't afraid of Ken Patera 'cause I'll whittle his face into a small one," said Atlas. "As for Von Raschke and the Assassins, heck, I gotta wrestle 'em. Do I have a choice?"

Atlas prides himself on courage. Each match becomes a micro-cosmic test of that challenge. Others would call it survival.

"I ain't the type to stand up and insult people. Not my style. I wanna show what I can do, not mouth off. Anyone can shoot off their tongue. I wanna prove myself in the ring," said Atlas.

However, Atlas goes beyond the normal exertions in the ring. Atlas percolates at 150 percent every second he's wrestling, never relaxing, never easing up, never searching for the crutch of a foreign object or the aid of a friend to help him through difficult moments. That would contradict the essence of the man.

"I gotta do it myself," said Atlas. "Just the way I view things, I guess. Wrestlin' is a private matter, just two of us out there. You gotta have the strength and the will or else you're gonna get wiped off the face of the world."

"I don't like to think of myself as needin' others, not in the ring. Everyone needs people and I got lots of people I love, good friends I can count on."



Tony Atlas shuttles between Georgia and the WWF trying to rid both areas of their fiercest rulebreakers. Atlas hoists NWA champion Harley Race into the air (above) as easily as he would a 100-pound barbell.





Atlas is one of the few wrestlers who has the strength to force his opponent into submission with a full-nelson (left). Atlas goes high into the air to apply a sleeperhold on Ernie Ladd (above).

"But I don't want to mess up out there and have people say Tony Atlas can't hack it. And I surely don't want me messin' up there and havin' to be saved and people sayin' how Tony Atlas don't have what it takes, that he gotta depend on help to win his matches."

Atlas rose, laced his boots, and walked toward the door. He paused, hand on knob, huge back muscles stiffening, legs tensing, head erect, fingers clenching the gold metal knob. Atlas whirled, eyes narrowed.

"Don't you see, man," Atlas whispered. "Ain't no good unless I do it myself. Otherwise, well," he shrugged and left the dressing room, ready to confront the blows of his foes, the cheers of the fans, the ruthless demands of his own soul. □



## YOU ASKED US

(Continued from Page 12)

**Q:** In one of your magazines I read that Bruno Sammartino won the NWA title in 1962 but gave it back. Would you ask him why?—Tony Capua, Longwood, FL

**A:** "Tony, in that match I beat Buddy Rogers, as tough a man as I ever wrestled. What I didn't know was Rogers is a big cry-baby. He complained I hit him with a low blow. Doggone, I never hit anyone with a low blow in my whole life. Well, I didn't want any bad cloud hanging over my title so I gave it back. I'm too much of a gentleman to keep a belt under those circumstances," said Sammartino

\*\*\*

**Q:** Where is Bobo Brazil wrestling and is he planning to return to the WWF?—Dennis Ginardia, Pawtucket, CT

**A:** At present, Brazil is wrestling in Florida, Georgia, and

Michigan, entertaining crowds with his unique brand of wrestling. Bobo thanks all his loyal fans for thinking of him and hopes to see them soon.

**Q:** Will M.J. Mascaras find a tag team partner and go after the WWF tag team belts now held by The Samoans?—Walt Meader, Athol, NY

**A:** "I find The Samoans to be nauseating wrestlers who only hurt the sport. Yes, if I could find a suitable partner I would consider getting the belts from them and putting them in secure hands," said Mascaras

**Q:** Why does Bruiser believe he can't defeat Nick Bockwinkel for the AWA title?—Alex Peterson, Indianapolis, IN

**A:** "No reason I couldn't beat the bum in a fair fight," growled Bruiser. "I could whip his butt more ways than you can slice a fruit, if he wouldn't run and hide from me. He ain't no champion but a big, ugly coward. You tell Bockwinkel I'll meet him anywhere he wants, anywhere, don't matter where, I'll pickle his face until blood flows and fills up a quart container. That answer your question, son?" □



Bruno Sammartino has his arm raised in victory after defeating Buddy Rogers for the NWA championship in 1962. When Rogers claimed that Sammartino used a low blow, however, Bruno rejected the tainted title



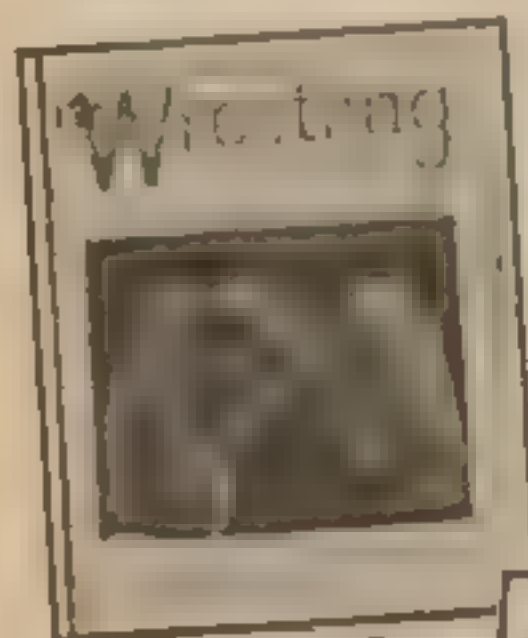
Popular Bobo Brazil has been wrestling in Florida, Georgia, and Michigan. Bobo, the master of the coco butt, thanks his many fans around the United States for their continued loyalty.



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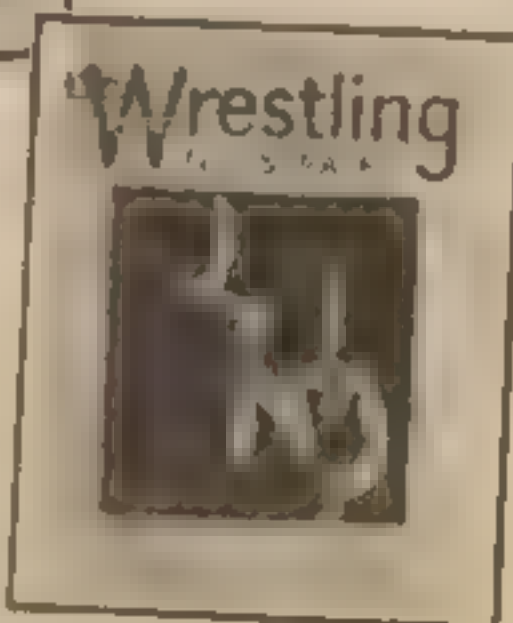


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## SUPER DESTROYER II vs. SUPER DESTROYER III

(Continued from Page 27)

hadda go through all kinds of pretense to get him there. First we went clothes shopping. You know what a clothes hound I am, and I insisted III come along. He started whinin' how he didn't want to go and I finally persuaded him with a lie that there was a sale on French designer shirts. He loves 'em

"So that got him outta the house. He ended up buyin' three shirts and almost punched out a security guard who insisted we remove our masks. What kinda crap is that? Now I hadda get him to the restaurant. Didn't figure that it'd be much of a problem, since SD II loves to eat. Damn, I saw him eat



On the offensive, Super Destroyer II lifts Super Destroyer III for a spine-crusher (top) and drops SD III to the canvas with a well-placed kick (above).

35 pancakes at one sitting, syrup and butter on every one.

"But wouldn't ya know, today of all days, SD II decides he ain't hungry. He has an upset tummy. Poor baby. So I start describin' how hungry I am and first thing ya know, he's salivatin' and askin' to go to the restaurant.

"Our room was in the back. I lead him back there and the lights go on, our friends jump out and start singin' 'Happy Birthday.'

"You'd think the guy would appreciate what I'd done for him. First thing ya know, he's sayin' how the salad is too watery, and I tell him this is his favorite dressin', and he starts on how the singer sounds like a backed-up faucet, and how the group is tinny, and



then his meat is overcooked, and the lobster ain't big enough, and he wanted French fries instead of a baked potato.

"I tried to keep my cool, but it was hard. 'Course the other boobs at the table agreed, like Heenan started whinin' about his food, and I got mad. Damn, how much can I take?"

"I told 'em all if they didn't like it they could put it you-know-where. By the time the birthday cake came out, there wasn't exactly good vibes runnin' around the table.

"SD II takes a bite outta the cake and says how he hates whipped cream more'n a warm beer. I nicely ask what kinda cake he likes and the fool says he likes lemon meringue. I call over the waiter, and ask for a piece of lemon meringue for my buddy. He gives me the cake and I walk over to the head of the table and ask SD II if he wants this cake. His eyes light up and he says give it to me. I



SD III alertly moved out of SD II's path before he could leap from the top turnbuckle.

pushed the piece in the slob's face. You shoulda seen the ruckus after that."

A "Loser Leave the AWA Match" followed shortly, ending with Super Destroyer Mark II, aided by new manager Bobby Heenan, beating SD III and driving him out.

"I'll be back," swore Super Destroyer Mark III. "I got a lot of scores to settle." ☐

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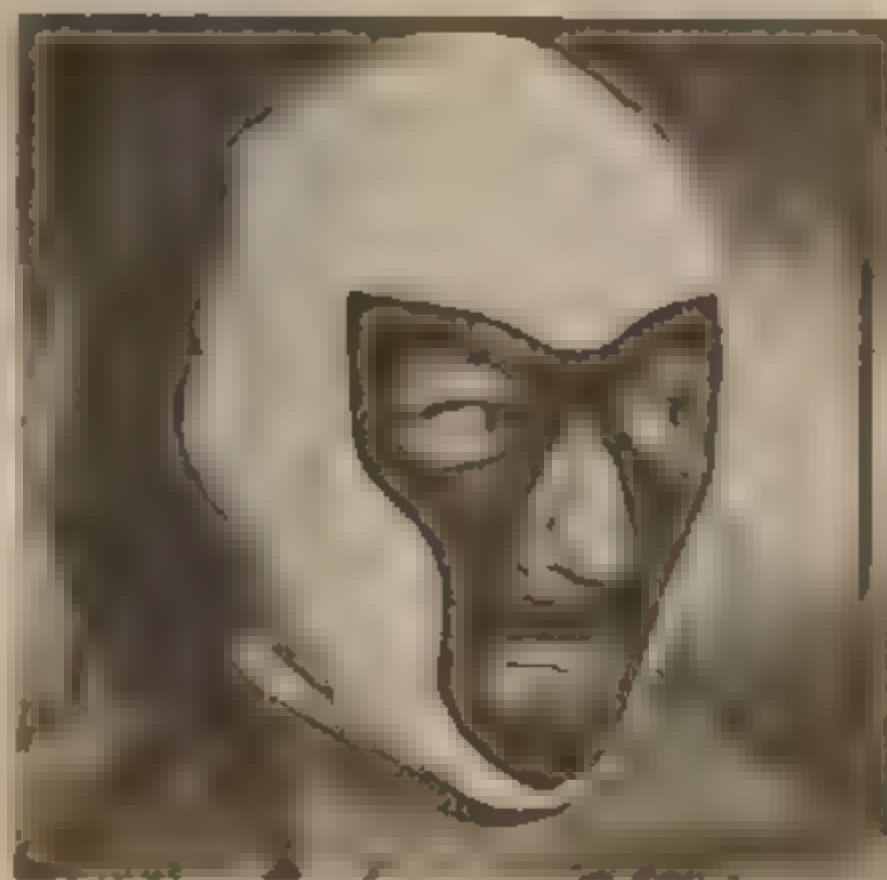
## THUMBS UP, THUMBS DOWN

(Continued from Page 18)



**THUMBS UP** to Ric Flair: Wrestling an old friend like Greg Valentine exacted a fearsomely unsettling influence on Flair. The broken nose, inflicted by Valentine during a cowardly assault, only widened the scars. Yet Flair persists, no longer intent on beating his old friend, but destroying him.

**THUMBS DOWN** to Gino Hernandez: Obsession can ruin a good young wrestler. After a while, obsession becomes as formidable a foe as your opponent. Pity Hernandez doesn't realize that. Black hatred swirls through his soul, hurtling him toward the inevitable *rendezvous* with destruction.



**THUMBS UP** to Mr. Wrestling II: Evil seeks out this masked man. Yet when confronted by awesome challenges like Masked Superstar, II takes a deep breath and plows forward. Secure in the righteousness of his ways and supported by the love of his fans, Mr. Wrestling II knows he must triumph.

**THUMBS DOWN** to Fred Blassie: A congregation of young wrestlers warped and corrupted by Fred Blassie's twisted morals could fill Madison Square Garden. Blassie's insidious philosophy is to use and abuse his wrestlers, discarding them when success eludes. If Hulk Hogan has a brain, he'd prepare for the day when Blassie drops him. It might not be far away. ☐





## WHAT'S HAPPENING

(Continued from Page 8)

Gene's brother, Ole, makes news this month with his change of attitude, reverting back to rulebreaker status. While teaming with Dusty Rhodes, Ole went berserk and attacked Dusty. "I want no part of that dumb moron or any of his kind anymore," says Anderson. "I'm tired of hangin' around with whales like Rhodes!"



Rick Martel is gaining a legion of fans throughout the WWF. His autograph could be very valuable one day.

Rick Martel is a welcome sight in the WWF. The fans, especially the gals, love handsome Rick's wrestling style. He hopes to go a long way in the Federation . . . Mil Mascaras has renewed his feud with John Tolos. Their feud, which began 10 years ago in California, cooled off for a brief period when Tolos became a fan favorite. But now the fever of the feud has hit an all-time high as Tolos has stated he is out to unmask Mil and end his "non-impressive career." ☐

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## WHAT'S HAPPENING

(Continued from Page 51)



John Tolos has been known to use any means possible to frighten his opponents (above). Mil Mascaras, though, doesn't scare easily. John Studd (below) and Tito Santana are climbing the AWA ratings.



"I can't wait to get my hands on that double-crossing bum!" Mil stated. "He fooled my fans, gained their confidence. Now he turns his back on them. Tolos—you are through!"

The AWA has two new faces—John Studd and Tito Santana—and they are totally different. Santana is a fine

scientific grappler while Studd has no regards for the rulebook. Both have also expressed a keen desire to wrestle each other . . . Terry Funk and WWF promoters are still at a standoff. "They'll have to get the right dough up before I 'rassle for those dense WWF fans," says Terry . . . North American Champion Ted DiBiase is set to square off against Mr. Wrestling II. This should be a great scientific contest . . . Junk Yard Dog is thrilling fans in Louisiana with his very unusual style.

In Florida, the team of Ivan Koloff and Nikolai Volkoff are destroying all competition. They are in line for a Florida tag team title match against champions Jack and Jerry Brisco. The Russian duo, managed by Sir Oliver Humperdink, do not consider the Brisco boys any sort of competition. "Ivan and Nikolai say that if the Brisco kids are the



best in Florida, things must be pretty bad here," Humperdink says. "They want some good competition here, but with no-talent blobs like Jack and Jerky, what's to do? Wrestling is in a sad state here, very sad."

What started out to be a fine, scientific match between NWA Junior Heavyweight champion Les Thornton and Tommy Gilbert turned into a brawl. Thornton threw the first fist, and Tommy followed suit. Ironically, the match ended in a double disqualification.

WWF champion Bob Backlund is tired of hearing people say he's ducking a match against Hulk Hogan. "Listen," Backlund exclaimed in a rare fit of anger. "I don't duck anybody. If the WWF makes Hogan the number one challenger, I will wrestle him. I am sick of all the criticism I am getting about this. Hogan is going to be tough, I have no doubt about that, but he'll get his shot when the WWF says he's ready!"

Rick Steamboat was asked to pick a winner in an upcoming match between U.S. Champion Ric Flair and his arch-enemy Greg Valentine. "Not because I am his friend, but I give Flair the edge," says Steamboat. "Valentine gets too carried away and loses his strategy throughout the match. If Flair sticks to his plan, he'll win."

Ken Patera is campaigning for the WWF, NWA, and AWA title. "I am the Missouri state champion and the Inter-Continental champion, and next I will be the undisputed World Heavyweight Champion," he boasts. "Not one of the three champions, Backlund, Race, or Gagne, can defeat me. I will even take them on in the same night. It'll take me about five minutes to win each title. I am so great!" And modest too!

That's all for now. See you next time. □

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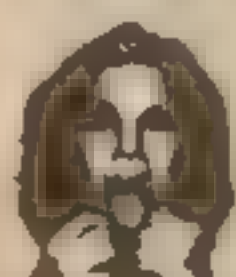
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## Q & A

(Continued from Page 21)



Great Mephisto denies the rumor that he controls Lewin through hypnosis. According to Mephisto, Lewin wants him as manager because there is no other man who can devise such brilliant strategies.

We must encounter widespread cheating and bribery. It's a well-known fact that all referees are paid off.

Q: By whom?

A: Rich, Idol, and Il established a trust fund, giving a certain percentage of their

earnings to this trust-bribery fund. Before each match, the referee receives a check to look the other way when they cheat. It's a well-known fact, why do you look so surprised?

Q: We have heard nothing of that.





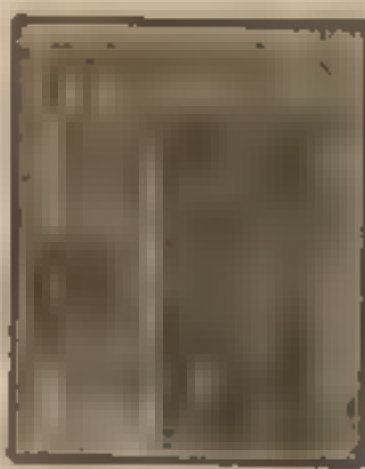
It took two referees and the Great Mephisto to force Lewin to break his sleeperhold on Austin Idol.

- A: You haven't? No wonder. The press sets itself up as an authority when it knows less than nothing, if that. And the public, whining morons without an ounce of intelligence, judging men like myself and Lewin and Abdullah. In a way, I pity you going through life so ignorant.
- Q: How should you be judged?
- A: By what we do.
- Q: Which is?
- A: Triumphant, vanquishing, exterminating, and blazing a greater glory.
- Q: Do you believe others will follow?
- A: No one can resist me. That is impossible. I will not permit that.
- Q: More oppose you than support your ways.
- A: Merely temporary. That will change someday. All who opposed me will regret the hour of their birth. That I pledge. ☐

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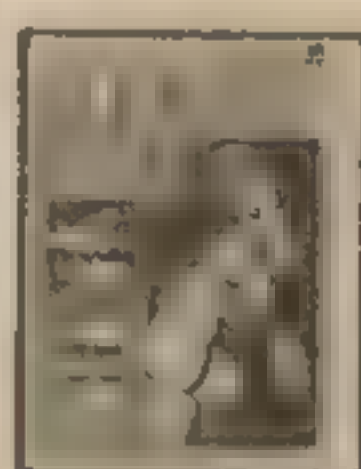
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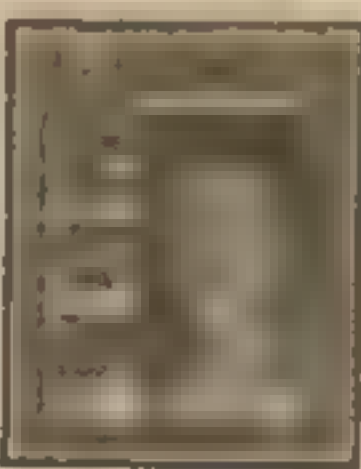
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## CORRESPONDENT REPORTS

(Continued from Page 10)

turned around, Rodz was defeated.

In other bouts, Larry Zbyszko defeated former Inter-Continental champion Pat Patterson . . . Huge Tor Kamata stopped El Olimpico . . . Steve King got the best of Jose Estrada . . . Larry Sharpe stopped Angelo Gomez.

**DES MOINES, IOWA—Correspondent: Shawn Swagler**—In the main event, two old rivals met and turned the ring red with hatred and blood. Killer Karl Kox and Dick Murdoch simply don't like each other and resorted to every imaginable form of brawling to destroy each other. However, Kox proved the most sadistically ingenuous when he slammed Murdoch with a foreign object, leaving Murdoch helpless and a loser.

In other matches, Pat O'Connor and Bob Brown won the Central States tag team title from Pak Song and Takachio . . . George Wells upset Bob Joggers.

**AUGUSTA, GA—Correspondent: Janet Finely**—Tension filled the air as Tommy Rich and Harley Race squared off in their NWA title match. The action swung back and forth with each man gaining the upper hand on several occasions. Finally Rich snared Race in his Manchurian sleeper-

hold. Just as the crowd roared their approval, Race hit Rich in the groin, forcing him to release the hold. Rich held his own until attacked by Assassin #1, who was in Race's corner. In turn, Race was attacked by Austin Idol, seconding for Rich. Both Race and Rich were disqualified for outside interference.

In other bouts, Terry Taylor downed Dutch Mantell . . . Dennis Condrey beat Mike Davis . . . Mark Lewin stopped Bill White . . . The Assassins retained their Georgia tag team title by beating Mr. Wrestling II and Austin Idol.



Larry Zbyszko failed to capture the WWF title as the bout was stopped in his favor because of cuts suffered by champion Bob Backlund.

**NEW YORK, NY—Correspondent: David Anderson**—The new self-proclaimed Living Legend, Larry Zbyszko, challenged Bob Backlund for the WWF title in a grueling match at Madison Square Garden. From the start, both men used illegal tactics. However, Zbyszko's tactics were meaner and he gained an advantage, bloodying Backlund so badly the match had to be stopped.

In other bouts, Ken Patera illegally beat Pat Patterson . . . Hulk Hogan defeated Gorilla Monsoon . . . Ivan Putski destroyed Tor Kamata. □



Tommy Rich failed to capture the NWA title when both he and champion Harley Race were disqualified for outside interference.



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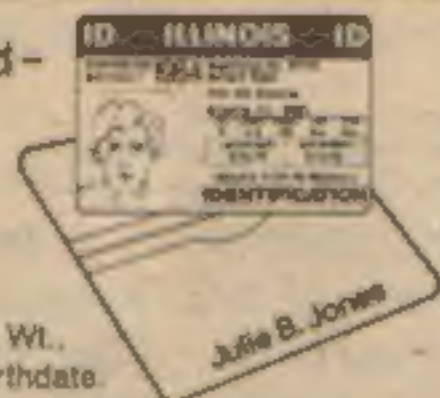
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## HULK HOGAN

(Continued from Page 35)



Hogan drives Tito Santana's face into the mat. Hulk must either destroy Bob Backlund or lose Fred Blassie as his manager. Fred Blassie says he handles only champions.

Hogan's accusations. However, that isn't central to the current controversy threatening to destroy Hogan and Blassie's relationship.

"Hulk Hogan is fired if he doesn't destroy Bob Backlund," vowed Blassie.

Strong words, indeed. Whispers of discord between Blassie and Hogan have circulated for some time. Surely this angry declaration feeds such rumors and whips them into a blazing inferno which could consume both men.

Yet Blassie insists his words are directed at the general public, not at Hogan or his skills.

"I got a rep to maintain, built this reputation up as the greatest manager who ever lived, bar none. Who can ever compete with Fred Blassie in mind and guts? I am the best manager and I only accept champions.

"I don't like to be associated with second-rate wrestlers. Hulk Hogan is a great wrestler, a great kid, and I'm proud of my association with him.

"But I can't stay with someone who isn't champion. We gotta do something about that. We're gonna force Backlund to wrestle us or else. Yup, or else. He'll be real sorry if he doesn't wrestle us," said Blassie.

Blassie paced, paused before a mirror, grinned, and whirled around.

"But I'm not like other managers content with braggin' about how many geek wrestlers they've managed. A title's worth about as much as Bruno Sammartino's brain unless you got the old champ's blood dripping from the diamonds, hah-hah. See, that's what I want for my boy Hogan. He's gotta destroy Backlund. I accept nothing less than Backlund's



complete destruction, no, nothin' else, gotta be all or nothin' at all," said Blassie.

"What aggravates me is Backlund's cowardice. Guy shivers outta his boots at the thought of Hulk. He knows we're gonna batter him from one end of the arena to the other. Howdy Doody knows we're gonna string him up and toast his toes. He knows we'll whip him, so he ducks us..



Hogan is satisfied with his victory, but he hears only boos from the 20,000 fans at Madison Square Garden.

"He can't duck us for long. He'll have to face us. But Hulk knows what I expect of him. He knows what he's gotta do. He knows the title ain't enough, Blassie wants more, Blassie wants everything, Blassie wants Backlund's hide.

"Hulk accepted that when he became my wrestler. This isn't somethin' I'm dropping outta the sky. He knows the price of having my genius behind him, and he knows what I've done and what I'll continue doin', and knows he gotta destroy Backlund. Or else."

Since Backlund and Hogan fail to agree on terms, the opportunity for Hogan to destroy the WWF champion is slim. Could this be a ploy for Blassie to justify dumping Hogan? □

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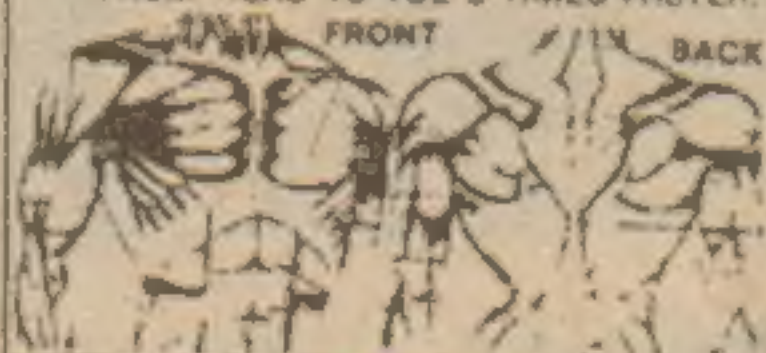
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# RAY STEVENS

(Continued from Page 37)

his career, since joining the forces of Gene Anderson. After all, he does hold the NWA tag team title with Ray Stevens. A very impressive title. I guess I should now."

The reporters laughed. Steamboat put up his arms and

waited for silence before continuing. "Despite his apparent success, Snuka's career is at an all-time low. I'm afraid Jimmy Snuka has turned into a coward."

"The next time Snuka and Stevens defend their titles, I



Ray Stevens is a veteran wrestler who knows a counter to almost every move. When Youngblood caught him in a sleeperhold (above), Ray saved the title with a simple sitout. Snuka and manager Gene Anderson celebrate the victory, but Stevens is too exhausted to appreciate the joyous moment (below).







Anderson and Snuka help Stevens out of the ring. According to THE WRESTLER'S official watch, Stevens spent twice as much time in the ring as Snuka.

want you to observe carefully. In fact, if you bring a stopwatch, you will have a great story. Note how much time Snuka stays in the ring compared to Stevens. I hope for Stevens' sake that they do not split the purse 50-50. Stevens does almost all the work. And when Snuka is wrestling, he tags off at the slightest sign of danger.

"That's not the Jimmy Snuka I used to team with. Jimmy was the perfect partner back then. He would more than carry his share of the load. In fact, he was always a little too anxious to tag in. He certainly never looked for a bodyguard."

The deterioration of a once great man is a sad process to witness. □

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